

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Aid For Bristol, Harwinton, Plainville & Plymouth

State funding for cities and towns impacts your property taxes. That’s why I fought hard to protect funding for our towns. This table shows the state grants and reimbursements for our district in Fiscal Year 2010–2011.

	Fiscal Year 10-11
Total Education Grants	\$66,192,593
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$739,403
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$755,715
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$763,632
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$694,139
Total State Funds to the 31st Senate District	\$69,145,482

Lowering Costs for Local Taxpayers

A good way to lower costs is to buy in bulk. Prescription drugs are no exception. I supported a bill that allows municipalities and boards of education to create a purchasing pool when buying prescription drugs for their workers. By working together, local governments can save money on health care costs—a good thing for taxpayers.



Preserving Resources for Children & Parents



Participating in the Read Across America program at O’Connell Elementary School in Bristol

Family Resource Centers across Connecticut—like the one at O’Connell Elementary School in Bristol—provide families in our community with access to free and affordable child care and support services, as well as preschool education, positive youth development and teen pregnancy prevention programs. Although Governor Rell proposed eliminating all state funding for Family Resource Centers in 2009, we were able to work together to fully fund these centers in 2010, providing much-needed assistance to our families in difficult times.

Working Together to Balance the Budget

The 2010 legislative session began with the state facing a projected deficit of more than \$1.2 billion for the current two-year budget. Despite the daunting task of closing the deficit, we were able to work together in a bipartisan fashion with the governor to balance the budget. We did it without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we cut state spending by hundreds of millions of dollars, reduced borrowing and worked hard to maximize federal funding.



As many of you know, Bingham School in Bristol will close at the end of the school year. I attended a special event to commemorate the school and was pleased to meet many fellow Bingham alumni, including Bernard O’Keefe, Lorraine Hill Bulluss and John O’Rourke.

Dear Neighbor,

Everywhere I go, constituents tell me the same thing: they want state government to focus on growing jobs and balancing the budget. I got the message.

This session we worked with Governor Rell to pass a historic, bipartisan jobs bill. The initiative helps businesses get access to the capital and credit that they need to thrive. We also made Connecticut an easier place to do business by cutting back on bureaucratic red tape and streamlining the regulatory process.

We tackled the budget deficit the same way. By working together, we balanced the budget without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we made significant cuts to state spending, maximized federal aid and reduced borrowing.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you as Connecticut continues on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,

Tom Colapietro

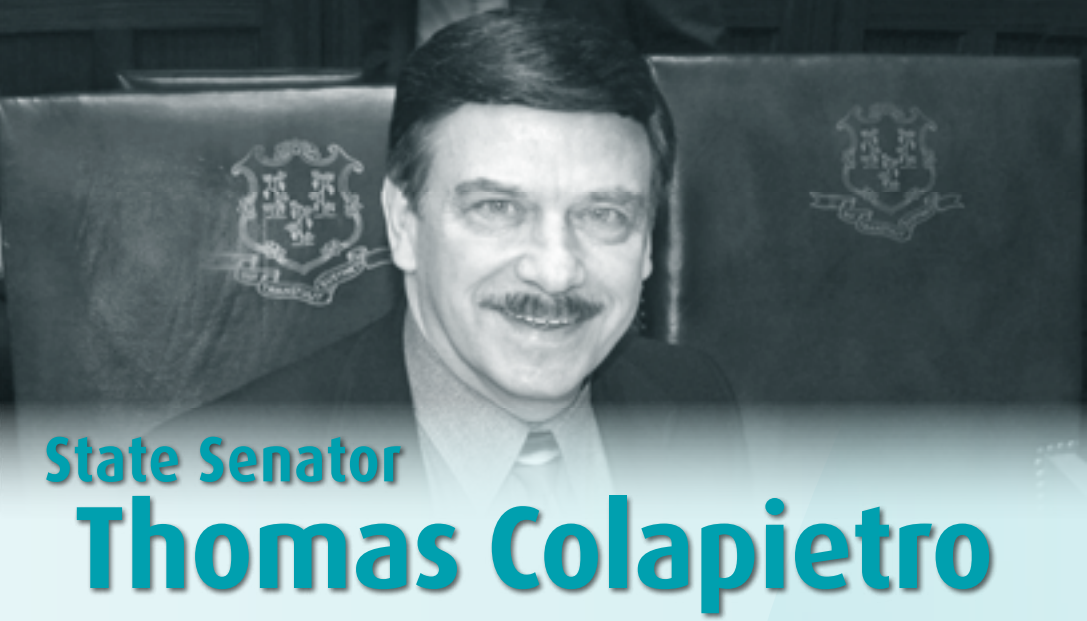
Thomas Colapietro
State Senator



What’s happening at the State Capitol and around the state? Follow the Senate Democrats on Facebook and find out. Once again, it’s paperless, informative and immediate: www.facebook.com/CTSenateDemocrats



Please share or recycle when done with this mailer.

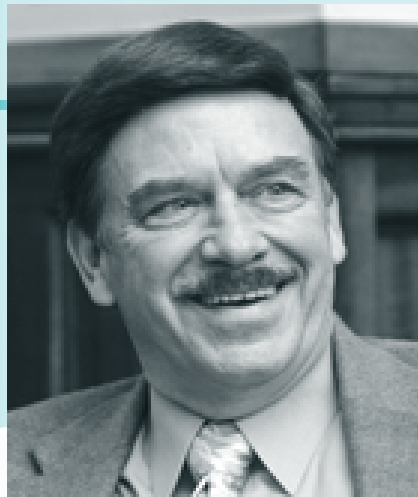


State Senator
Thomas Colapietro

Legislative Office Building, Room 3500, Hartford, CT 06106-1591
www.SenatorColapietro.cga.ct.gov
Colapietro@senatedems.ct.gov
1-800-842-1420

I’m proud to represent the citizens of:
Bristol,
Harwinton,
Plainville
& Plymouth

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD CT
PERMIT NO. 3937



STATE SENATOR **Thomas Colapietro**

Serving Bristol, Harwinton, Plainville & Plymouth

SUMMER 2010

GROWING JOBS

Connecticut's Landmark Jobs Bill

There was no greater priority this legislative session than helping Connecticut create high-quality jobs. We worked with Governor Rell to do just that. Provisions of the new law include:

- ▶ Loans for small businesses to help fund expansions and additional hires
- ▶ Sales-tax exemptions for machinery and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- ▶ Loan reimbursements and grants for education and careers in green technology and health information technology
- ▶ Tax credits for angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green businesses



Tax Relief for 'Mom & Pop' Businesses



Senate Democrats led the way in pushing for tax relief for more than 46,000 small businesses across Connecticut, including as many as 973 in our Senate district. Senate Bill 1 called for suspending the \$250 business entity fee for thousands of small 'mom and pop' businesses. To make up for the lost revenue, we proposed enacting a small surcharge on large bonuses paid by companies who received TARP bailout funds. Despite the bill's veto by Governor Rell, I will continue to advocate for targeted tax relief for struggling small businesses.

FOR CONSUMERS

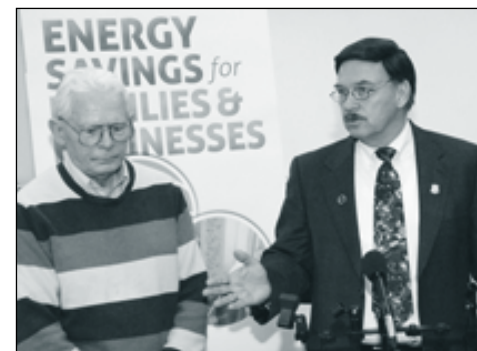
Raising Penalties for 'Do Not Call' List Violations

Unwanted sales calls in the middle of dinner can be irritating. Connecticut led the country by creating a 'Do Not Call' list in 2000, and the federal government followed suit a few years later. Yet despite these laws, some telemarketers still haven't gotten the message. This year, I voted for an additional \$11,000 penalty for companies that ignore the Do Not Call list. That should deter telemarketers from violating state statute—and your right to privacy.



Lowering Energy Prices

I voted for landmark energy reform legislation this year—the most important in over a decade—that targets a 15 percent reduction in our electric rates, increases our commitment to Connecticut-based renewable energy generation, consolidates various state energy entities and provides assistance for state residents to make efficiency and renewable energy improvements in their own homes. Unfortunately, these important measures were vetoed by the governor.



I held a news conference at the Bristol Community Organization to raise awareness of opportunities for families and businesses to reduce their energy costs. With me is Bristol resident Joseph Roy.

Standing Up For Vocational-Technical Schools



Vo-tech graduates contribute mightily to a well-trained, highly qualified, experienced workforce. That's why I worked with my colleagues to help reform the system and ensure that it has adequate resources. For too long the 10,000 students enrolled in vo-tech high schools have endured understaffing, shortages of classroom and shop supplies, inefficient transportation and virtually no budgetary oversight. The new law will bring increased transparency to vo-tech budgeting and heightened sensitivity by the state Board of Education to the needs of these schools.

HEALTH CARE

Remaking the UConn Health Center



I participated in a news conference at the Hospital of Central Connecticut (HCC) to announce this important regional hospital plan. With me are (left to right): Dr. Steven Hanks, chief medical officer of HCC; Dr. Clarence Silva, president and CEO of HCC; Dr. Leonard Banco, chief medical officer of Bristol Hospital; Dr. Cato Laurencin, dean of the UConn Medical School; Senator Donald DeFranzo and me.

Bristol Hospital and other hospitals in Central Connecticut will get a big boost this year with an initiative to renovate the UConn Health Center and stimulate Connecticut's growing medical sector, creating 15,000 jobs. The legislation provides \$2 million to Bristol Hospital for renovations to patient rooms. Additionally, there will be improvements at the Hospital of Central Connecticut, St. Francis Hospital, Hartford Hospital and elsewhere. The measure includes Bristol in a Hartford-area enterprise zone, providing biotech and bioscience startup companies with an 80 percent tax credit.

Helping Workers Keep Health Care Coverage

Did you know that Congress passed a bill that extends the 65 percent COBRA subsidy for the continuation of an individual's employer-sponsored health care coverage to those that lost their jobs from September 1, 2008 to February 28, 2010? And that Congress also extended an individual's access to COBRA benefits from 9 months to 15 months? A new state law extends these benefits to people who worked for companies with 20 employees or less.



Helping Patients Get Answers

When health insurers deny your claim it's easy to feel confused and frustrated. Now, when health insurance companies deny coverage for procedures because they claim they're "not medically necessary" or "not a covered benefit" they must provide patients with contact information for the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, where staff can help patients determine if they have been wrongfully denied coverage and take appropriate action.